and non-transparent service charges/hidden charges being levied by banks, especially with respect to non-maintenance of minimum balance in account, delayed payment on credit card dues, remittance charges, ATM/Debit card fees etc.

(c) RBI has issued Fair Practives Code for Lenders in May 2003 advising scheduled commercial banks and All India Financial Institutions not to resort to undue harassment of the borrowers including credit card holders. RBI has also issued guidelines on credit card operations on 21.11.2005, which cover almost all issues concerning credit card operations like interest and other charges, wrongful billing, protection of consumer rights, rederssal of grievances etc. Further, in order to ensure fair practices in banking services, Governor, RBI has, in the Annua! Policy Statement for the year 2006-07, proposed to make it obligatory for banks to display and update, in their offices/branches as also on their website, the details of various service charges in a format to be approved by the Reserve Bank and to constitute a Working Group comprising of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and representatives of customers to formulate a scheme for ensuring reasonableness of bank charges and to incorporate the same in the Fair Practice Code, the compliance of whcih would be monitored by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI). The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 has been notified w.e.f. 1st January, 2006 enlarging the scope of the scheme to cover customer complaints in areas such as levying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non-adherence to the Fair Practices Code as adopted by the banks, credit card complaints, deficiency in providing the services assured by the banks through their agents etc.

Credit flow to small and medium Enterprises

3255. SHRIC. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given out by Public Sector Banks in the last two years to small and .medium.enterprises, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that banks are willing to forego the default risk premium while charging interest rates from small and medium enterprises that have a clean record and have a higher credit rating;

(c) whether banks are shying away from landing to small and medium enterprises only because of lack of credit information; and

(d) how banks would increase the flow of credit to small and medium enterprises, if credit rating companies report that small and medium enterprises do not have a good track record of credit (an opinion similar to that which the banks presently have)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The amount of loans given by the Public Sector Banks to Small Scale Industries in the state of Andhra Pradesh in the years 2004 and 2005 is Rs. 3734 crores and Rs. 4345 crores respectively.

(b) Banks have the discretion of deciding the rate of interest on loans to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) depending upon the financial strength, market strength, credit rating and clear track record etc. of the enterprise.

(c) and (d) It is not correct to say that banks are shying away from lending to SMEs. The SME credit has gone up from Rs. 116609.53 crores as on March, 2005 to Rs. 138212.13 crores as on December, 2005 showing an increase of 18.53%. Besides this, a "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to SME sector" has been announced in the Parliament on August 10, 2005 which *inter alia* includes fixing self targets for funding SMEs to achieve a mimimum 20% year on year growth in credit to SMEs. Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in this regard advising all banks to implement the policy measures.

Disinvestment of Central Inland Waterways Corporation

3256. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to disinvest Central Inland Waterways Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the present stage of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The revival proposal of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC) was considered by